Design Resource

Handmade Paper - Sikkim

Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom
by
Abhey Singh
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/handmade-paper-sikkim

1. Introduction
2. Place
3. People
4. Process
5. Products
6. Contact Details

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Introduction

The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom was founded in 1957 by Sikkim government in an effort to preserve and promote traditional arts and crafts. With time it evolved as a centre for sustainable development of the region focussing on utilising the traditional knowledge and human resources. In modern perspective the centre serves as a important tool for providing employment and self-reliance across the strata of society covering diverse region, income rang and education. The centre has now expanded to 32 training centres with 650 trainees and 13 production units. The head office is located in Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim. It provides training in carpet weaving, handloom, thanka painting, handmade paper, wood-carving, cane & bamboo craft, soft toys and multi-crafts. Training period ranges from 2-4 years depending on the craft. After that the artisans can either work in the centre's production units or work outside on their own. In order to promote the initiative the government also gives stipend to the students.

Handmade paper unit was established at DHH, Gangtok to convert used waste of old government files, paper from printing press and city wastage into new products. It is only a production unit with no training unit. The paper unit produces products which are eco-friendly, have artistic appeal and durability.

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Place

Sikkim is 2nd smallest Indian state located in the north-east India. Sikkim chose to remain independent when India got independence in 1947. In 1975 it became the 22nd state of India after a treaty with the then Prime Minister of Sikkim. Sikkim has been very successful in protecting its cultural heritage along with embracing the modern ethos. The state has a very diverse flora and fauna and occupy a special place in India for it.

Directorate of handicrafts and handloom head office at Gangtok.

Hoarding explaining the mission of directorate of handicrafts and handloom.

Mannequins wearing traditional tribal costumes.

Bamboo exhibition at directorate of handicrafts and handloom.

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Plaque installed in corridor of directorate of handicrafts and handloom.

Sales emporium which sell all the items produced at DHH, Gangtok.

Inside the sales emporium at DHH, Gangtok.

Sales emporium selling wood and bamboo products.

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People

Handmade paper unit is more of a commercial unit. Mr. Passang Ushering is the in charge of the unit with several staff members working in various areas.

Mr. Passang Tshering - in charge of the handmade paper unit.

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An old woman who does the job of cutting and sorting.

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The person responsible for removing small spots and dirt from the paper.

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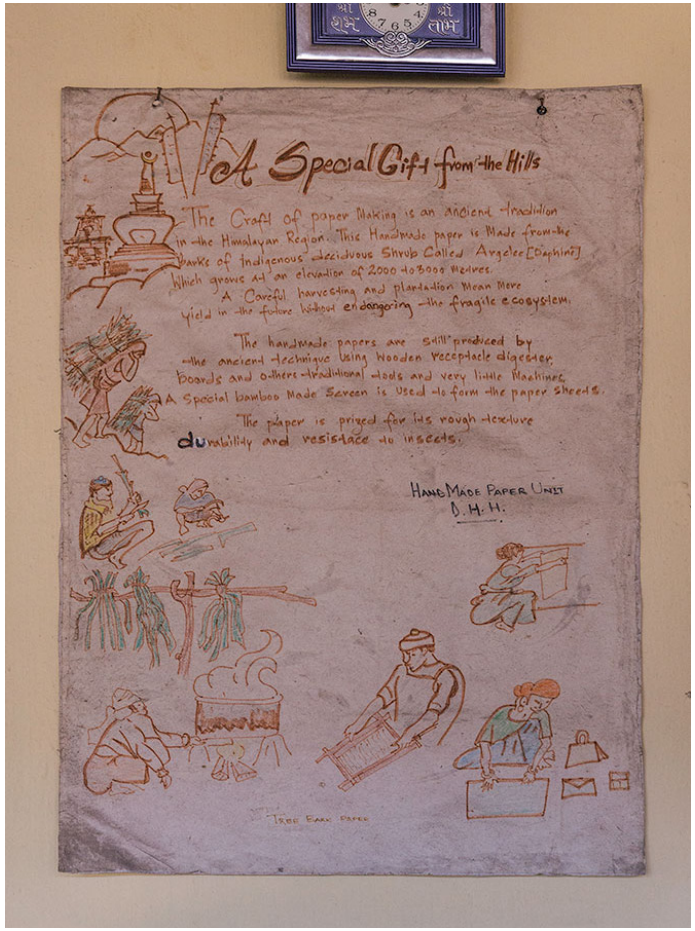
Process

The process starts with collecting the waste materials from government offices and printing press. All the waste is then cut and sorted removing iron pins etc. The paper and cloth waste is then put into a beater, mixed with water and beat to form a pulp. The next step is Lifting - it involves converting the pulp into rectangle shapes. Hydraulic pressing is then done to remove water. The individual sheets are then separated and left to dry on stands. The paper sheets are then passed through calender. A calender is a series of hard pressure rollers used to form or smooth a sheet of material such as paper or plastic film. The sheets are then cut and finished as per the final product.



Poster at handmade paper unit depicting the process.

Paper wastage collected from government offices and printing presses.

Sorting and cutting of paper and cloth.

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Sorting and cutting of cloth.

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Cutting of cloth in small pieces.

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Beater machine used to make a pulp from the waste.

Pulp made by beating the mixer of paper, cloth and water.

Pulp made by beating the mixer of paper, cloth and water.

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Transferring the pulp to the vat.

Sheet formation by dipping a deckle in a slurry of the mix created earlier.

Couching - transferring wet sheet from screen to an absorbent surface.

Pressing to remove excess water.

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Hydraulic press to remove the water.

Separating the sheets after removing the water.

Sheets drying on iron stands.

Tool used to remove small impurities.

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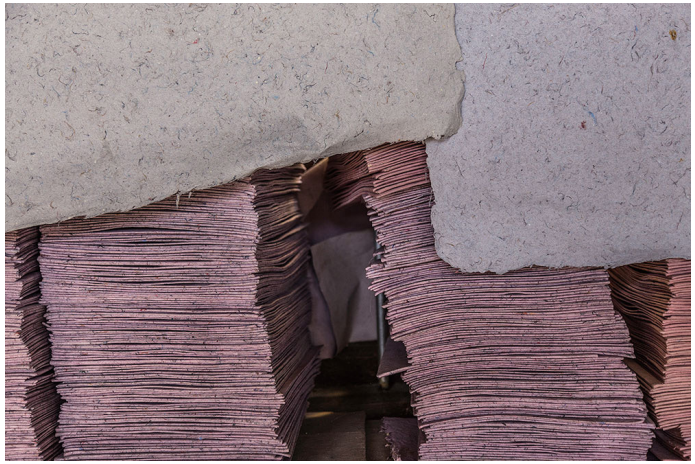
Calender machine - used to form or smooth a sheet of paper.

Machine used to cut the paper.

Paper without cutting.



Paper cut into rectangle pieces.

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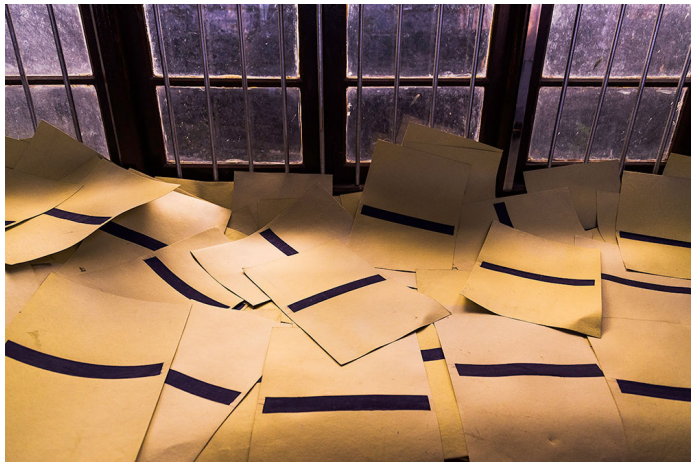
Finished paper after cutting.



Paper used to make government files.

Paper used to make government files.

Final government files.

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Products

The handmade unit make several products from paper such as file covers, file board, file envelope, envelope, paper bag, diary, paper pen stand, photo frame and carry bags.

Paper carry bags.

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File covers.

File covers.

Carry bags.

Diaries.

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Diaries.

Lamps.

Table lamps.

Table lamp.

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Lamps and other decorative items from paper.

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This documentation was done by Abhey Singh, M. Des. at IDC, IIT Bombay.

You can get in touch with him at abheysingh333[at]gmail.com
See his work at www.abheysingh.com

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Mrs. Ganga Devi Pradhan
Director
Directorate of handicrafts and handloom
Gangtok, Sikkim

Mobile : +91-81458-89499
Email: directordhhsikkim[at]gmail.com

Helpdesk Details:
Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
Industrial Design Centre
IIT Bombay,
Powai
Mumbai 400076
India

Phone: 091-22-25767820/ 7801/ 7802
Fax: 091-22-25767803
Email: dsource.in[at]gmail.com